

Amendments to the claims (this listing replaces all prior versions):

1-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method comprising:

maintaining in a handheld wireless device a list of location-specific informational or transactional applications capable of receiving information and processing transactions specific to a given location; ~~real-world services that are~~

on the device, making the applications available for use by entities other than from an application running on the device; and

through a wireless communication channel, broadcasting information from the device indicative of the available applications ~~real-world services~~.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 in which the information is broadcast periodically.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 in which another wireless device that receives the broadcast information accesses one of the available applications ~~real-world services~~.

17. (currently amended) Apparatus comprising:

a handheld wireless device containing a list of location-specific informational and transactional applications capable of receiving information and processing transactions specific to a given location ~~real-world services~~ that are available from ~~an application running on the~~ device; and

a medium storing a program that configures the wireless device to broadcast information over a wireless communication channel from the device about the available applications ~~real-world services~~.

18-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A method comprising:

maintaining a list of short-range wireless devices that are known to be within range of a first short-range wireless device;

transmitting a message, using a communication medium, from an identified user of the first device to a ~~second identified user of a second wireless device~~ being used by a second identified user, over a communication medium;

the communication medium being selected based at least in part on whether the second device is included on the list, and on the fact that the second device is being used by the second identified user, the selection being transparent to the user of the first device.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 in which, if the second device is included on the list, the message is transmitted to the second device ~~over~~ using a short-range radio link, and if the second device is not included on the list, the message is transmitted to the second device using another communication medium.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 in which, if the second device is not included on the list, the message is transmitted to the second device over either the Internet or by mobile telephony.

26-71. (canceled)

72. (new) A method comprising:

maintaining in a handheld wireless device a list of location-specific informational or transactional applications capable of receiving information and processing transactions specific to a given location;

on the device, making the applications available for use by entities other than the device;
and

through a wireless communication channel, periodically broadcasting information from the device indicative of the available applications,

on a second wireless device, receiving the broadcast information and accessing one of the available applications.

73. (new) A method comprising:

maintaining a list of short-range wireless devices that are known to be within range of a first short-range wireless device;

if the second device is included on the list, transmitting a message from an identified user of the first device, using a short-range radio link, to a second wireless device being used by a second identified user, and

if the second device is not included on the list, transmitting a message from an identified user of the first device, using either the Internet or mobile telephony, to the second device.

74. (new) The method of claim 14 in which the applications include an application for identifying an actual geographic location of the handheld device based on signals received from GPS sources,

and in which making the application available includes transmitting the geographic location of the handheld device.

75. (new) The method of claim 16 in which accessing one of the available applications includes updating a derived geographic location stored at the second wireless device based on information received from the first device.

76. (new) The method of claim 14 also comprising
maintaining in a second handheld wireless device a second list of location-specific informational or transactional applications capable of receiving information and processing transactions specific to a given location;

on the second device, making the applications available for use by entities other than the second device; and

through a wireless communication channel, broadcasting information from the second device indicative of the available applications on the second list,

in which the second list includes applications available on the first device.